

**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, California 95814-4213
(916) 322-6253
FAX (916) 445-0800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2005

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

MARILYN ERRETT (916) 322-0737

Emergency Teaching Permits Drop to Ten Year Low

SACRAMENTO – The number of emergency teaching permits issued in fiscal year 2003-04 reached a ten year low -- below the number issued in 1994, prior to class size reduction. In the report "Teacher Supply in California 2003-2004," the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) confirms that the number of emergency teaching permits declined significantly for the fourth year in a row.

The number of emergency teaching permits issued in fiscal year 2003-04 decreased by fifty percent from the number issued in 2002-03 and by seventy percent from 1999-00. The number of emergency teaching permits decreased from 20,583 in 2002-03 to 10,242 in 2003-04 and all indications are that the numbers continue to plummet.

"School districts can now concentrate their efforts on the recruitment of teachers in specific subjects such as math, science and special education," stated Leslie Peterson Schwarze, Chair of the CCTC. "I look forward to school districts marshalling their resources to ensure credentialed teachers in every classroom."

In 2003-2004 the percentage of emergency permit teachers in California classrooms was 3.4%; down from 6.8% the previous year and a high of 11.6% in 1999-2000. After California implemented class size reduction in 1996, the number of emergency teaching permits reached a peak of 34,309 in 1999-2000.

Credential waivers, a last resort for school districts, have decreased by 83% since fiscal year 1999-2000, from a high of 2,274 to just 458 at .2% of the state's teachers.

According to Peterson Schwarze, a combination of factors such as the federal No Child Left Behind requirements, a decline in student population, school district budget constraints, and expanded teacher preparation program options offered by universities and school districts have contributed to the decrease in emergency teaching permits and credential waivers.

In addition, the number of newly credentialed teachers in the state increased by nearly 16% in 2003-04, up from 27,136 in 2002-03 to 31,397.

The report is available at www.ctc.ca.gov.

###